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Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2010: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report reviews the progress made by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in implementing its programme of work in the field of population in 2010. It covers the activities of the Population Division on the analysis of fertility, mortality and international migration; the preparation of world population estimates and projections; the monitoring of population policies; the analysis of the interrelations between population and development; and the monitoring and dissemination of population information. The report also covers other major activities carried out by the Population Division, including the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documentation and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results, including through the Internet.

The objective of the subprogramme on population is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimensions into the development agenda at the national and international levels. The Commission on Population and Development provides the subprogramme with intergovernmental guidance.

The Commission may wish to take note of this report.

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I. Introduction

1. The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme on population of the United Nations Secretariat. The subprogramme takes account of the recommendations of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly (resolution S-21/2, annex) on key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[1] and the outcomes of other relevant international conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2) and the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1). It also responds to the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Population and Development, in particular resolution 2004/1 on the work programme in the field of population (E/2004/25, chap. I, sect. B), as well as relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

2. As described in the strategic framework for the period 2010-2011, the objective of the subprogramme on population is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues and to integrate the population dimensions into the development agenda at the national and international levels (see A/63/6/Rev.1, programme 7, subprogramme 6). The Commission on Population and Development provides intergovernmental guidance to the subprogramme.

3. The expected accomplishments for the subprogramme, according to the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/64/6 (Sect. 9)), are to:

(a) Effectively facilitate review by Member States of progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly, and the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits in the social and economic fields related to population and development, including the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit;

(b) Enhance awareness of the international community of new and emerging population issues and increased knowledge and understanding, at the national level, particularly in the areas of fertility, mortality, migration, HIV/AIDS, urbanization, population growth, population ageing and the environment;

(c) Improve accessibility and timeliness of population information and data for use by Member States, the United Nations system, civil society and academia.

4. The Population Division collaborates closely with the agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the work programme and in the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development. United Nations missions, national Government offices, United Nations offices, researchers, media representatives and the public regularly consult the Population Division regarding data, information and analyses on population and development issues.

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

5. The present report focuses on the research and other activities carried out by the Population Division during 2010, grouped by thematic area, and provides a substantive summary of the activities and outputs of the Division, which include the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documentation and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results, including various forms of outreach through the Internet. A list of activities and outputs is presented in the annex to this report.

II. Fertility and family planning

6. In order to enhance awareness about key issues to be addressed by the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-fourth session, the Population Division organized an Expert Panel on Fertility, Reproductive Health and Development that took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 7 December 2010. The Panel featured four experts from academic and research institutions who presented new evidence on the development impact of fertility decline, improvements in access to family planning and other reproductive health services, and reductions of inequities in reproductive health. The participants in the Panel provided evidence that expanded access to reproductive health could accelerate fertility decline in developing countries and lead to faster progress in the achievement of key Millennium Development Goals. The presentations made can be accessed on the Population Division's website.[2]

7. As part of its task of producing and disseminating estimates of the determinants of fertility, the Population Division prepared a CD-ROM entitled *World Contraceptive Use 2010*. The CD-ROM presents estimates of levels and trends in contraceptive use for 193 countries or areas, including data by method used and estimates of unmet need for family planning. This CD-ROM provides more detailed and comprehensive data than previous editions. In particular, it provides time-series data for each country covering a period that, as far as possible, starts in 1950. It also presents data highlighting the level of use of long-acting and permanent methods of contraception as well as male-oriented methods. The time series presented include data on the level of use of any contraceptive method as well as the level of use of modern methods and of traditional methods separately. Data on unmet need for family planning are also presented as time series. Estimated regional averages of contraceptive use relative to any method, any modern method and any traditional method as well as those for unmet need for family planning are included. In 2009 at the world level, 63 per cent of women of reproductive age who were married or in a union were contraceptive users. Contraceptive prevalence ranged from 3 per cent in Chad to 88 per cent in Norway, and was higher in the more developed regions (72 per cent) than in the less developed regions (61 per cent). Contraceptive prevalence remained low in sub-Saharan Africa, at 22 per cent, and unmet need for contraception was particularly high in that region, with 31 of the 40 countries with data since 2000 reporting that 20 per cent or more of women aged 15 to 49 who were married or in a union had an unmet need for contraception. Modern contraceptive methods are the most commonly used (by 56 per cent of women of reproductive age that are married or in a union in 2009), surpassing traditional methods by a factor of three or more in all regions except Middle Africa,

[2] www.un.org/esa/population.

Western Africa and Western Asia. The information contained in the CD-ROM is available on the Population Division's website.[2]

8. The in-depth analysis of fertility trends and their main proximate determinants is presented in *World Fertility Report 2007*,[3] which includes key indicators of fertility, nuptiality, contraceptive use and population policies regarding childbearing for 192 countries or areas. The data refer to dates around 1970 and around 2000, thus covering a period of unprecedented change in reproductive behaviour. According to the data presented, total fertility fell in all but one of the 132 countries or areas with data available. In the most recent period covered, 59 countries or areas had a total fertility below 2.1 children per woman, the level required to ensure the replacement of generations in low mortality populations. Since 1970, fertility dropped more in developing countries than in developed countries, because fertility levels were higher in the former. Thus, more than a quarter of all developing countries experienced fertility declines of at least 3.0 children per woman between the 1970s and around 2000. However, fertility levels among developing countries still vary widely. Total fertility is below replacement level in 18 of 71 developing countries or areas with data for the two periods but remains above 4.0 children per woman in 10 countries or areas. The *World Fertility Report 2007* includes a CD-ROM that contains a comprehensive set of indicators related to childbearing for each country, including time-series data derived from various sources. An electronic version of the report can be accessed on the Division's website.

9. To raise awareness about the benefits of fertility decline and family planning for making progress in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, the Population Division produced two issues of *Population Facts*, a new series that concisely highlights the latest evidence on population and development. "Speeding progress on the Millennium Development Goals" (No. 2010/1) describes how greater access to family planning can improve maternal and child health and argues that the least developed countries, where unmet need for family planning is still high, have the most to gain from strengthened family planning programmes. "Accelerating achievement of the MDGs by lowering fertility: Overcoming the challenges of high population growth in the least developed countries" (No. 2010/5) focuses on how the maintenance of high fertility results in a high number of dependants in the least developed countries, making it more difficult to invest sufficiently in the health and education of each child. By satisfying the unmet need for family planning in the least developed countries, women would have fewer children and both families and the public sector would be able to invest more per child, thereby making more rapid strides in improving child health and education.

10. The Population Division, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is responsible for reporting on three indicators of universal access to reproductive health that are part of the revised framework for tracking progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, namely, contraceptive prevalence (indicator 5.3), the adolescent birth rate (indicator 5.4) and the unmet need for family planning (indicator 5.6). In 2010, the Division produced updated estimates at the global, regional and subregional levels for each of those indicators and provided them, together with the corresponding metadata on definitions and methods of computation, to the Millennium Development Goal database maintained by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.8.

Social Affairs. The Population Division also contributed estimates of the contraceptive prevalence of modern methods and condom use, and of the spacing and limiting components of unmet need for family planning to the Millennium Development Goal database. Data on these indicators are also available on the Population Division's website.

III. Health and mortality

11. In the area of health and mortality, the Population Division has continued to compile data for the estimation of mortality together with relevant metadata. An inventory of data sources useful for the analysis of mortality levels and trends was published in the CD-ROM edition of the *World Mortality Report 2009*.[4] The CD-ROM contains estimates of several mortality indicators for 196 countries or areas, referring to every five-year period between 1950 and 2010. The estimates were derived from the results of *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision*. The *World Mortality Report 2009* itself is under preparation.

12. The Population Division published the wallchart *Population and HIV/AIDS 2010*.[5] The wallchart provides, for all countries with data available, information on the number of adults and children living with HIV, the number of AIDS deaths, the number of AIDS orphans as well as the impact of AIDS on life expectancy and on the projected population in 2015. The wallchart also includes information on Government measures taken in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, including the use of blood screening; information, education and communication activities to promote prevention; provision of antiretroviral therapy (ART); adoption of legislation prohibiting discrimination against people living with HIV; and programmes for the distribution of condoms. Lastly, data on condom use, the number of people receiving ART and the percentage of HIV-positive pregnant women receiving antiretroviral treatment to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV are also included in the wallchart. According to the wallchart, in 2008 33.4 million people were living with HIV. The search for effective strategies to halt the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic remains at the top of the international agenda. In countries highly affected by the epidemic, all population and development indicators have been adversely affected by it. The data show that most countries have implemented measures to prevent the transmission of HIV as well as programmes to provide care, support and treatment to persons living with HIV.

13. The Population Division has updated its estimates of infant mortality ($_1q_0$), child mortality ($_4q_1$) and under-five mortality ($_5q_0$) by sex. The analysis of the estimates obtained will be published in a report entitled *Sex Differentials in Childhood Mortality*. The increasing availability of data on infant, child and under-five mortality by sex spanning a good part of the period 1970-2010 has permitted the derivation of at least two estimates for each of 149 countries or areas out of the 154 having at least a million inhabitants in 2009. The estimates indicate that, in almost all countries with excess female child mortality in the 1970s, such an excess disappeared over time and was no longer evident in the most recent period.

[4] POP/DB/MORT/2009.

[5] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.9.

14. In order to raise awareness about the timing of mortality and excess male mortality over the lifespan, the Population Division published two issues of *Population Facts*: "The age distribution of deaths" (No. 2010/3) and "Sex differentials in mortality" (No. 2010/4). The first discusses differences in the age distribution of deaths in the major development groups in relation to the causes of death underlying them. The second shows that in most countries, male mortality is higher than female mortality at all ages and, in Eastern Europe and in Latin America, male mortality is especially high relative to that of females.

15. During 2010, the Population Division contributed to the work of the Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, whose task is to monitor progress made towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 4, namely, a reduction of infant and child mortality by two thirds between 1990 and 2015. The Inter-agency Group, led by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), has as additional members the Population Division and the World Bank. The Division provides input for updating the database on infant and under-five mortality estimates maintained by UNICEF, and in 2010 it assisted in preparing *Levels and Trends in Child Mortality, Report 2010*.[6]

16. The Population Division provided input to the Thematic Papers on Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6,[7] prepared under the leadership of UNICEF as background information for the High-level Plenary Meeting held by the General Assembly in September 2010 to review progress made towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

17. The Population Division co-chaired the Working Group on Millennium Development Goals of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which was in charge of organizing intradepartmental activities in preparation of the High-level Plenary Meeting of September 2010 and of providing substantive support for the Meeting itself. The Population Division provided substantive support for the Round Table on Health and Education taking place during the High-level Plenary Meeting.

IV. International migration

18. The Population Division prepared the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development for the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly (A/65/203). According to the report, in 2010 there were 214 million international migrants in the world, 60 per cent of whom lived in developed countries. Because of the financial and economic crises, increases in the number of international migrants fell from 13 million in 2000-2005 to 11 million in 2005-2010. While unemployment in host countries has risen among both natives and international migrants, migrant workers have been more affected because they are concentrated in the sectors that have borne the brunt of the economic downturn. Owing to the crisis, remittances to low- and middle-income countries fell from $336 billion in 2008 to an estimated $316 billion in 2009, the first decline in more than a decade. These consequences of the economic crisis make it all the more urgent to safeguard the rights of migrants. As of June 2010, 82 Member States had ratified at least one of the three key international instruments relative to the rights of

[6] www.childinfo.org/files/Child_Mortality_Report_2010.pdf.

[7] www.undg.org/docs/11421/MDG4-6_1954-UNDG-MDG456-LR.pdf.

migrant workers. In recent years, multilateral assistance for projects on international migration and development have increased markedly, reaching nearly $250 million in 2010. The report noted that, out of the 114 recommendations produced by the state-led Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) since 2007, 102 had been followed up by at least one member of the Global Migration Group (GMG), which includes 14 United Nations entities, the World Bank and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

19. To highlight the impact of migration on the health-care workforce of developing countries, the Population Division prepared an issue of *Population Facts* (No. 2010/2/E/Rev) entitled "Health workers, international migration and development", which documents the shortage of health workers in developing countries and its negative impact on the efforts to achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. According to this publication, 18 per cent of doctors and 11 per cent of nurses employed in member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) are foreign-born, and 74 per cent of foreign-born doctors and 65 per cent of foreign-born nurses living in OECD countries were born in non-OECD countries. To avoid depleting further the health-care workforce of countries with shortages of health workers, several receiving countries have been establishing codes of practice for ethical recruitment. Furthermore, in May 2010, the World Health Assembly adopted a global code of practice to promote ethical recruitment of health workers, develop health workforces and establish sustainable health systems.

20. Another issue of *Population Facts* focused on "International migrants by age" (No. 2010/6). Based on newly available estimates of the number of international migrants classified by age group and sex, this issue shows that 72 per cent of the 214 million international migrants in 2010 were aged 20 to 64, the main working ages. The median age of international migrants in developed countries was 43 years compared to just 34 years in developing countries. Only 15 per cent of international migrants were under age 20 compared to 36 per cent of the total population. Migrant children and adolescents were more likely to live in developing countries than in developed countries (60 per cent lived in developing countries), whereas older migrants aged 65 years or over were more likely to live in developed countries than in developing countries (62 per cent lived in developed countries). Among the 27 million international migrants aged 65 or over, 57 per cent were women.

21. The Population Division prepared the report of the Eighth Coordination Meeting on International Migration, which was held in New York on 16 and 17 November 2009. Both the papers presented as background for the meeting and the presentations made at the meeting can be accessed on the Population Division's website.[8]

22. With the support of UNICEF and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Population Division continued to update the United Nations Global Migration Database, a web-based database that contains the most complete set of statistics on the number of international migrants enumerated in each country and classified by country of birth or country of citizenship, sex and age.[8] The Population Division assisted UNICEF in the preparation of a poster, a map and a fact sheet on migrant

[8] www.unmigration.org.

children, which were distributed at the 2010 meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, from 8 to 11 November 2010.

23. The Population Division collaborated in various activities organized by the Global Migration Group. The Division prepared the background paper entitled "Data and analysis: Partnering to better understand and address the human development implications of migration" for the GMG Practitioners Symposium on Overcoming Barriers: Building Partnerships for Migration and Human Development, held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 27 and 28 May 2010. The Population Division supported the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs in its participation in the GMG meeting of principals, which was held in Geneva on 30 September 2010. The Division also contributed to the GMG Expert Meeting on Migrants in an Irregular Situation: Ensuring the Effective Promotion and Protection of Their Human Rights, which was held in Geneva on 22 October 2010. Lastly, the Population Division provided inputs to the GMG publication entitled *Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning: A Handbook for Policy-makers and Practitioners*.[9]

24. The Population Division continued to participate in the Ad hoc Working Group on Policy Coherence, Data and Research of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and contributed to various other forums that promote global and regional dialogue and cooperation on international migration and development.

25. The Population Division also continued to provide support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, who is the main link between the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the United Nations. This work was supported through a grant provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

V. World population projections

26. The preparation of the official United Nations population estimates and projections for all countries and areas of the world is a key part of the work of the Population Division. The results of this activity are used throughout the United Nations system by all entities requiring population data. In addition, the official United Nations population estimates and projections are distributed as part of widely used databases accessible over the Internet, including: the World Development Indicators database maintained by the World Bank; the data portal of the United Nations, UNDATA, maintained by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and FAOSTAT, the statistics database maintained by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The Population Division also makes the data available through its website.

27. In 2010, the Population Division issued the results of the *2009 Revision* of *World Urbanization Prospects*. Outputs presenting the results of the *2009 Revision* include an interactive online database accessible through the Division's website, a CD-ROM,[10] two wallcharts[11] and a working paper presenting the highlights[12] of the

[9] http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=1&products_id=661.

[10] *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2009 Revision*, CD-ROM (POP/DB/WUP/Rev.2009).

2009 Revision. In preparing the *2009 Revision*, particular attention was given to the production of detailed documentation on the data sources and definitions used at the country level, as well as for cities and urban agglomerations. The full metadata compiled in this regard are accessible on the Population Division's website.[13] The site also includes useful figures and maps illustrating the results obtained.

28. The *2009 Revision* of *World Urbanization Prospects* confirmed that more than half of the world population lived in urban areas in 2010. Nevertheless, Africa and Asia remain mostly rural, with six out of every 10 persons living in rural areas. Between 2009 and 2050, the world population is expected to increase by 2.3 billion, passing from 6.8 billion to 9.1 billion. At the same time, the population living in urban areas is projected to gain 2.9 billion, passing from 3.4 billion in 2009 to 6.3 billion in 2050. Thus, the urban areas of the world are expected to absorb all the population growth expected over the next four decades, while at the same time drawing in some of the rural population through both migration and the reclassification of rural settlements as cities. As a result, the world rural population is projected to start decreasing in about a decade and there will likely be 0.5 billion fewer rural inhabitants in 2050 than today.

29. Furthermore, most of the population growth expected in urban areas will be concentrated in the cities and towns of the less developed regions. Asia, in particular, is projected to see its urban population increase by 1.7 billion, Africa by 0.8 billion, and Latin America and the Caribbean by 0.2 billion. Population growth is therefore becoming largely an urban phenomenon concentrated in the developing world. Realization of these projections is contingent on the continuation of fertility reductions in the developing world. If fertility were to remain constant at current levels and the pace of urbanization remained that projected in the *2009 Revision*, the world urban population would increase to 7.6 billion by 2050 instead of the 6.3 billion expected when fertility is assumed to continue declining in all developing regions. In many countries, natural increase (the difference of births minus deaths) accounts for 60 per cent or more of urban population growth. Consequently, policies that facilitate the reduction of fertility by ensuring that couples have access to modern contraception and that they can decide freely the number of children they desire can contribute to moderate increases in the number of urban dwellers, thereby making it easier for developing countries to adjust to the transformations associated with growing urbanization.

30. In order to respond to requests for long-term population projections used for modelling future climate and energy use, the Population Division prepared a new set of long-term projections to 2300 consistent with the *2008 Revision* of *World Population Prospects*. The results of the long-term projections are presented on a CD-ROM.[14] They include six different scenarios illustrating the effects on population growth and structure of different hypotheses on the future course of fertility. In the medium scenario, the world population peaks at 9.4 billion in 2070 and then declines because the fertility of all countries is assumed to reach below-

[11] *Urban and Rural Areas 2009* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.6) and *Urban Agglomerations 2009* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.7).

[12] *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2009 Revision — Highlights* (ESA/P/WP/215).

[13] http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/index.htm.

[14] United Nations, *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision, Long Range Projections Supplement* (POP/DB/WPP/LRPS/Rev.2008), 2010.

replacement level and remain at that level for a century. A scenario that maintains all countries at replacement level produces a population that continues to grow, albeit increasingly slowly, until 2300, when it reaches 11.5 billion. A scenario that maintains fertility and mortality constant in every country at today's levels shows that current levels are unsustainable because they yield a world population of 3.5 trillion in 2300, and even the scenario that maintains fertility just a quarter of a child higher than in the medium scenario produces a population of 30 billion in 2300, indicating that, over the long run, fertility in every country needs to remain very close to replacement level to avoid an excessive increase of the world population.

31. During 2010, the Population Division worked on the preparation of the *2010 Revision* of *World Population Prospects*, which is expected to be released in the first quarter of 2011. Estimates and projections for 230 countries and areas and more than 60 regions are being produced. The *2010 Revision* will extend the projection period to 2100 and its projected fertility will be based on a Bayesian Hierarchical Model (BHM) that uses past trends in fertility in all countries and the past experience of each country to generate future paths of fertility change.[15]

32. The Division participated in the sixteenth session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), which was held in Vienna from 1 to 3 September 2010. The Division also continued collaborative work with the University of Washington and the University of Singapore on improving the methodology for the preparation of probabilistic population projections based on a Bayesian approach. Lastly, work continued on the development of a database containing all available statistics relevant for the preparation of national population estimates and projections.

VI. Population policies

33. In 2010, the Population Division issued *World Population Policies 2009*,[16] the most comprehensive overview of population policies for all Member and non-member States of the United Nations. The report documents the evolution of population policies by providing policy information referring to 1976, 1986, 1996 and 2009. The report covers information on policies related to population growth, fertility, health and mortality, international migration and spatial distribution. It confirms that the HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to be the major population-related concern among Governments. In developing countries, high mortality in childhood and high maternal mortality are, respectively, the second and third most commonly reported concerns. In developed countries, population ageing is the most commonly reported concern, followed by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, low fertility and the potential shortage of workers that could result from continued low fertility and its consequences. Developing countries are also concerned about the number of persons of working age, but mainly because they have been unable to expand employment rapidly enough. To complement the printed report, the policy information contained in *World Population Policies 2009* is released on a CD-ROM and via an interactive database that is accessible on the Population Division's website.

[15] Leontine Alkema and others, "Probabilistic projections of the total fertility rate for all countries", *Demography*, forthcoming.

[16] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.14.

34. During 2010, the Division began work on a wallchart entitled *World Abortion Policies 2011* that will include the most recent information on abortion policies for all countries in the world, including the grounds on which induced abortion is permitted, estimates of the abortion rate and levels of contraceptive use.

35. As part of its work to monitor the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and other internationally agreed development goals related to population, the Population Division launched in 2008 the Tenth United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development. Between 1963 and 2003, nine inquiries among Governments were conducted. Each records Government views and policies on every aspect of population and development. The Tenth Inquiry was distributed among all permanent representatives to the United Nations in New York and was made available in printed form, electronically and via the Internet. As of November 2010, only 23 per cent of all Member States had responded to the Inquiry despite efforts to obtain responses. The results of the Inquiry have been incorporated into the report on *World Population Policies 2009*.

36. While the Division has accumulated a wealth of information on a wide range of population policies, the electronic storage and organization of those resources has been limited, thus restricting the use of the information. In order to improve access to those resources, the Population Division began work in 2009 on the development of a database to organize and store the information available with a view to making it more easily accessible and amenable to analysis. A web-based user interface is being developed to facilitate use of the database.

VII. Population and development

37. In 2010, the Population Division published the report entitled *World Population Ageing 2009*,[17] following the release at the end of 2009 of its electronic version, available on the Population Division's website. The report on *World Population Ageing 2009* is accompanied by a CD-ROM that contains a comprehensive set of indicators on ageing by development group, major area, region and country or area. The report provides detailed demographic information and analysis of socio-demographic trends on population ageing. It is intended to serve as a basis for follow-up activities to the Second World Assembly on Ageing and, in particular, to those related to the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002. The report shows that, globally, persons aged 60 or over numbered 737 million in 2009 and are projected nearly to triple by 2050, to reach 2 billion. In all countries, both the absolute and the relative number of older persons will increase over the coming decades. Women constitute more than half of the older population. Older persons are increasingly concentrated in the less developed countries, which accounted for 64 per cent of the population aged 60 or over in 2009 and will likely account for nearly 80 per cent in 2050. The recent financial and economic crises have had a severe negative effect on the older population. In 2008, many pension funds had negative rates of return. Furthermore, because millions of older persons lack pensions, especially in developing countries, they are particularly vulnerable to economic downturns.

[17] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.5.

38. The Population Division continued its collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC) on the Project on National Transfer Accounts, which promotes the production and analysis of internationally comparable information on population ageing and intergenerational transfers. The Division participated in the panel on "Sharing Across Generations: The Challenges of Population Aging and Development", organized by IDRC in Ottawa, on 2 June 2010. The Panel provided an opportunity to showcase the Division's work in this area.

39. As part of its collaboration with UNFPA, the Population Division participated in a Technical Meeting on Low Fertility, Ageing and Population Decline, organized by UNFPA in New York on 23 November 2010. The meeting focused on the social and economic consequences of low fertility, ageing and population decline and their implications for development. The Division also participated in the Expert Meeting on Collecting Data to Monitor Progress towards the Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, held in New York on 9 and 10 December 2010. The meeting reviewed the strengths and limitations of various sources of data on older populations and discussed methodology to collect and analyse data related to population ageing. The meeting reviewed the indicators developed by the United Nations Programme on Ageing and discussed areas of inter-agency collaboration to improve the availability of data and indicators relevant for the monitoring of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing.

VIII. Monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information

A. Monitoring of population trends and policies

40. The report of the Secretary-General on the annual theme of the session of the Commission on Population and Development is prepared by the Population Division. The 2010 report (E/CN.9/2010/3) was devoted to the theme of "Health, morbidity, mortality and development". It has been published as the *World Population Monitoring: Focusing on Health, Morbidity, Mortality and Development: The Concise Report*,[18] which also includes resolution 2010/1 on health, morbidity, mortality and development adopted by the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-third session (E/2010/25, chap. I, sect. B), in order to promote its wider dissemination.

41. In 2010 the Division initiated work on two reports of the Secretary-General to be presented to the Commission at its forty-fourth session: the report on "Fertility, reproductive health and development" (E/CN.9/2011/3) and the biennial report on "World demographic trends" (E/CN.9/2011/6).

[18] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.10.

B. Dissemination of population information and data

42. During 2010, the Population Division continued to update and expand its website[19] in order to provide Government officials and civil society with access to timely population information. The Population Division's website contains most of the publications issued by the Division, which are often posted well in advance of their availability in printed form. In addition, the website contains items that are available only via the Internet, including highlights, key findings, papers presented at meetings and interactive databases. The site also contains a full collection of the documents and statements considered by the Commission on Population and Development at its different sessions. Traffic statistics indicate that in 2010 the Division's website was visited by about 2,100 users per day, generating approximately 750,000 page views for the year.

43. The Population Division also maintains a website focusing exclusively on international migration.[20] This website serves as a portal containing links to the numerous international migration activities closely related to the work of the Population Division, both within and outside the United Nations system. In particular, it includes links and references to the activities of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and of the Global Migration Group.

44. The Population Division is responsible for maintaining the website of the United Nations Population Information Network (POPIN), although extrabudgetary funding for the project ceased several years ago. The Network is a portal to the population information and data available throughout the United Nations system. Analysis of traffic to the website shows that the Network remains a well-established brand name and is a useful channel for the dissemination of the population information generated by the United Nations system, with the number of visits having totalled over 150,000 in 2010.

45. The Population Division continued to use its e-mail announcement service to alert subscribers to important news, events and developments concerning the Division's activities. The service has currently over 2,000 subscribers from all over the world. In addition, information on the Division's activities as well as publications of particular relevance to developing countries are distributed regularly to persons and institutions included in different mailing lists.

46. MORTPAK for Windows, the United Nations software package for demographic measurement, developed by the Population Division, continues to be distributed among analysts, including those in developing countries who use it for teaching or research purposes.

IX. Technical cooperation

47. The focus of the Population Division's regular programme of technical cooperation is on building and strengthening capacity in developing countries to analyse the demographic information needed to guide the formulation and implementation of population policy.

[19] www.unpopulation.org.

[20] www.unmigration.org.

48. As previously reported, in 2009 the Population Division conducted an inquiry to assess national institutional capacity to produce population estimates and projections among national statistical offices. The results of the inquiry indicate that national statistical offices in developing countries are not yet universally able to produce reliable demographic indicators or detailed population projections, mainly because many of them have very few professional staff with specialized training in demography. Deficits in trained personnel also affect several countries with economies in transition and reduce their capacity to produce timely population estimates and projections. The Inquiry also showed that virtually all national statistical offices are interested in participating in capacity-building activities, either to acquire skills that cannot be acquired locally or to upgrade skills by learning about new methodologies. Interest in such activities is high in both developed and developing countries. A report on the Inquiry[21] is available on the Population Division's website.

49. In order to assist national statistical offices in developing the capacity to produce reliable demographic estimates, the Population Division provided technical assistance in a regional workshop on monitoring the health-related Millennium Development Goals, organized by the United Nations Statistics Division and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), and held in Geneva from 8 to 11 November 2010. The workshop brought together 13 representatives of national statistical offices from States members of ECE as well as representatives of international organizations. Workshop participants noted the limitations that national statistical systems faced to improve reporting of Millennium Development Goal indicators of maternal and child health. Particular attention was given to discussing the possible sources of discrepancies between national estimates and those used by international organizations. The Population Division made presentations and led discussions on measuring contraceptive prevalence, the adolescent birth rate and unmet need for family planning. The structure and content of an ECE database for Millennium Development Goal monitoring was also a focus of discussion.

50. During 2010, the Population Division collaborated with ECE in organizing two regional workshops aimed at strengthening national capacities to improve international migration data. The first workshop,[22] held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, from 15 to 17 February 2010, brought together more than 30 representatives of national statistical offices and relevant ministries from current and former member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as well as representatives of international organizations. The main objective of the workshop was to identify gaps in the availability of data on international migrants and to identify practical ways to close them before the General Assembly of the United Nations holds its second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013. The workshop identified key migration trends and policies at the regional level, reviewed international standards and recommendations for collecting migration statistics, discussed tools for follow-up activities, and identified needs for capacity development. The second regional workshop was held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 6 to 8 December 2010. It reviewed new initiatives to improve international migration data in the region and discussed ways of building synergies

[21] Report on the Inquiry on National Institutional Capacity to Produce Population Estimates and Projections. Technical Paper No. 2010/1. Available from www.un.org/esa/population/publications/technicalpapers/TP2010-1.pdf.

[22] www.unece.org/stats/documents/2010.02.migration.htm.

among the various initiatives. The workshop also discussed a draft of a practical guide to collect and use migration data in the CIS region. Both workshops were part of the activities programmed under the project entitled "Strengthening national capacities to deal with international migration: Maximizing development benefits and minimizing negative impact", funded by the United Nations Development Account.

51. Lastly, the Population Division has continued its collaboration with the French National Committee of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population in developing and implementing Demopaedia, an interactive web-based Wiki platform providing access to a set of multilingual demographic dictionaries available in 14 languages to population specialists, government officials, non-governmental organizations and the media.

Annex

Publications, expert group meetings and other materials prepared or organized by the Population Division (1 January-31 December 2010)*

Expert group meetings

Expert Panel on Fertility, Reproductive Health and Development, New York, 7 December 2010.

Research studies

World Population Ageing 2009 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.5).

World Fertility Report 2007 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.8).

World Population Monitoring: Focusing on Health, Morbidity, Mortality and Development: The Concise Report (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.10).

World Population Policies 2009 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.XIII.14).

Guidelines for Improving Data on Child Adoption (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.11).

Report on the Inquiry on National Institutional Capacity to Produce Population Estimates and Projections (Technical Paper No. 2010/1).

Databases

Population, Resources, Environment and Development (PRED) 2009, version 5.0 (POP/DB/PD/PRED/2009).

World Mortality Report 2009. Datasets in Excel and pdf formats (POP/DB/MORT/2009).

World Urbanization Prospects: The 2009 Revision (http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/index.htm).

2010 Update for the MDG Database: Contraceptive Prevalence (POP/DB/CP/A/MDG2010).

2010 Update for the MDG Database: Unmet Need for Family Planning (POP/DB/CP/B/MDG2010).

2010 Update for the MDG Database: Adolescent Birth Rate (POP/DB/Fert/A/MDG2010).

Wallcharts

Urban and Rural Areas 2009 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.6).

Urban Agglomerations 2009 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.7).

Population and HIV/AIDS 2010 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.9).

World Fertility Patterns 2009 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.XIII.12).

* Excluding reports issued as parliamentary documents.

Policy briefs

"Speeding progress on the Millennium Development Goals", *Population Facts*, No. 2010/1.

"Health workers, international migration and development", *Population Facts*, No. 2010/2/E/Rev.

"The age distribution of deaths", *Population Facts*, No. 2010/3.

"Sex differentials in mortality", *Population Facts*, No. 2010/4.

"Accelerating achievement of the MDGs by lowering fertility: Overcoming the challenges of high population growth in the least developed countries", *Population Facts*, No. 2010/5.

"International migrants by age", *Population Facts*, No. 2010/6.